

ParkWays

Volume 7, Issue 3

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Spring/Summer 2002

New & Improved: Many Cincinnati Parks Receive Capital Improvements

If you have recently visited one (or more) of your Cincinnati Parks, you might have noticed some exciting improvements to the grounds, facilities, and even amenities! In fact, over \$2 million of improvements were made during 2001 at 31 parks across the city.

The enhancements—which included many new walkways, playgrounds, building repairs, infrastructure renovation, painting and landscaping—are meant to advance the Park Board's goal of creating and sustaining public greenspaces for

the continued enjoyment of the entire Cincinnati community.

Highlights of the capital improvements in 2001 included:

- New playgrounds were installed at Hoffner, Alms, Bellevue, Burnet Woods, and Kennedy Heights parks.
- Hoffner Park in Northside was rededicated following its complete redesign and reconstruction.
- Krohn Conservatory finished its first phase of re-

glazing—a project costing \$680,000.

- A master plan was completed for Stanbery Park in conjunction with the Mt. Washington community.
- The overlook at Fleischmann Gardens was rebuilt and sidewalks in the park replaced.
- The first phase of implementing the Fernbank Park master plan began with the construction of a new river promenade.
- Stella Park underwent its first phase of improvements with funding from Parks' capital budget and a private grant.
- The Washington Park comfort station was renovated.
- Construction started on Eden Park's Donald Spencer Overlook.
- The Hauck House at Hauck Botanical Gardens was renovated.

cont. on pg. 2

Managing for Success



Cincinnati Parks' 2002 Management Team

Magrish River Lands Preserve: Better Than Ever for 2002!

Dog walkers, bird watchers, canoeists, and nature lovers—take note! Magrish River Lands Preserve—a unique 45-acre park in California Woods—has received major improvements over the last six months that will delight all who long to experience memorable warm weather days!

Upon arriving at Magrish Preserve, take notice of the repaved and lined parking lot with its

newly planted native cedar trees flanking both the drive entrance and the rear of the brand new limestone overlook. Designed by California Woods Advisory Council member, Jeff Payne, the overlook blends seamlessly with the natural landscape and provides a soothing, unobstructed upriver view. A new meandering gravel trail now leads directly to the overlook from the parking lot.

A new walking trail at Magrish Preserve has been constructed on the dike and leads visitors down to the scenic Little Miami River. Yet another new trail—a loop



through the meadow and along the river—will be completed this season. More adventurous park users will appreciate the refurbished canoe egress trail. With the fresh gravel pathway and shore landing, kayak and canoe launching will be easier than ever before!

An informational kiosk has

cont. on pg. 2

Central Riverfront Park: *A Downtown Treasure*

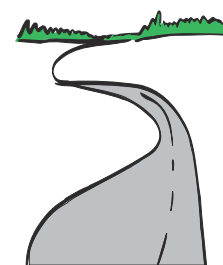
The Cincinnati Park Board's Planning and Design team is hard at work preparing for the construction of Cincinnati's new Central Riverfront Park. This monumental project—spanning over 50 acres along downtown Cincinnati's riverfront—will dramatically revitalize the area and provide citizens and visitors with hours of recreational and sightseeing opportunities.

"Our focus right now is on the portion of the park just south of the Great American Ballpark, between Main Street and the public landing," explained Dave Prather, Manager of Planning and Design Services. "This area is being considered for the first phase of construction." Development on this portion of the park includes a 2-acre extension of the existing public landing and a garden along Mehring Way. There will also be an upper promenade alongside Mehring Way, and a lower promenade at the river's edge.

This phase will also include part of the Ohio River bike-way, which will eventually traverse the entire length of Central Riverfront Park. The estimated cost for this first phase of development is \$8.5 million. With construction slated to begin in 2004-2005, depending on the availability of funds, staff are identifying and pursuing a variety of public funding sources. An archaeological dig has already begun at the site, which

cont. on pg. 2

Trivia



Trails

The old oak trees located in which city park came as seedlings from Valley Forge?

(Answer on page 4.)





Planned Giving: A Living Legacy

Since its founding in 1788, Cincinnati’s grateful citizens have preserved and protected its its precious parks as legacies to future generations. To celebrate and uphold this proud parks her-itage, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation has established the **Legacies of Green Society** to provide creative pathways for individuals to make meaningful planned contribu-tions to the future of Cincinnati Parks.

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation can assist you in determining how you can leave your special legacy to Cincinnati Parks. Executive Director Ron Molen can be reached by calling 357-2619, or e-mailing ron.molen@rcc.org.



Planned gifts, in particular, have provided creative pathways for individuals to make meaningful contributions to Cincinnati Parks.

The **Legacies of Green Society** is proud to honor during their life-times, the many generous donors who include the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in their estate plans by designating the Foundation as a recipient of a gift during their lifetime (e.g. charitable remainder trust) or a beneficiary of a will, trust, insurance policy or IRA. Acceptable gifts of appreciated stock, real estate, cash, securities, jewelry, art objects or other bequests are also appreciated. In many cases, the value of a bequest can often lower or elimi-

nate estate tax liability. A planned gift to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation is a living lega-cy which will benefit generations to come. Yet there are many com-pelling reasons to give this gift today.

- Many planned giv-ing instruments pro-vide opportunities for increased income during your lifetime.
- Planned gifts diversify your assets—always a sound financial plan-ning strategy.
- Bequests reduce your investment risk and relieve you of the burden of managing your own assets.
- A bequest or planned gift can help you avoid capital gains taxes and achieve deductions on your income taxes.
- Gifts of property lower estate taxes by eliminating the holdings from the taxable estate.
- You maintain control over the ultimate disposition of your gift-ed funds.

Please consult with your financial advisor, insurance agent, or attor-ney to make planned gift. You may also call the Cincinnati Parks Foundation at 513.357.2619.

*Anne Zaring
Chair, Legacies of Green Society*



Central Riverfront, cont. from pg. 1

will provide documentary evi-dence of the site’s cultural histo-ry—required to obtain permits.

Exciting features planned for the park include piers, a carousel, a playground and a major interac-tive fountain.

"These offer opportunities for

private donors to have a direct impact on the changing land-scape of Cincinnati's riverfront," noted Steve Schuckman, Superintendent of Planning & Design for Cincinnati Parks."

For more information about the Central Riverfront Park, visit www.cinci-parks.org.

Capital Improvements, cont. from pg. 1

- Handicap ramps were built in Hyde Park Square.
- Construction started on Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park.
- Though 2001 brought substantial improvements to a great many Cincinnati Parks, there are even more improvement projects slat-ed for 2002, including \$2.7 mil-lion of infrastructure renovation and enhancements:
- A new playground at Ault Park and new walks in the garden

- Construction of a plaza and fountain in Burnet Woods
- The next phase of reglazing of Krohn Conservatory
- The next phase of implementa-tion in the Fernbank Park master plan
- Renovation of Hauck Gardens
- Continued enhancement of Stella Park

To find out more about what’s happening in your neighbor-hood parks, visit our website at www.cinci-parks.org.

Reviving a Community Treasure

Restoring Hyde Park’s Kilgour Fountain

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation is enlisting the support of the community to help raise \$330,000 to restore the Kilgour Fountain in Hyde Park. The historic fountain has marked the center of Hyde Park’s busy square since the beginning of the 20th century.

"Community members expressed their admiration for the Kilgour Fountain 30 years ago when it was first in need of repair," said Gus Long, Campaign Chair for the Kilgour Fountain. "We are relying on community support once again to ensure that this landmark remains at the center of Hyde Park square."

The Park Board has committed \$50,000 to improve safety and handicapped accessibility. The City of Cincinnati has also set aside \$1,000,000 to improve the Streetscape around the Fountain and the square over the next three years.

The restoration is estimated to be completed just ahead of the foun-tain’s 103nd birthday in November! To make a donation, please call the Cincinnati Parks Foundation at 513.352.2619 or send donations directly to: Cincinnati Parks Foundation; 950 Eden Park Drive; Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Magrish Nature Preserves cont.

Magrish, cont. from pg. 1

also been newly constructed and is regularly updated by the California Woods staff. In addi-tion to plant and wildlife descrip-tions, a Little Miami River canoe trail map is posted in the kiosk, charting the entire 100 miles of the river. Soon, a new and improved hiking trail map will also be posted, which will give exact trail locations and accurate walking distances.

"All of these recent improve-ments to the Magrish River Lands Preserve would not have been possible without a working partnership between the Cincinnati Park Board and the dedicated volunteers of the California Woods/Magrish Advisory Council," said Jim Farfsing, Director of Educational Services. "Cincinnati Park main-tenance does an excellent job of keeping the park clean and safe, and with these enhancements,



Magrish will be the perfect place to enjoy sunny days."

Magrish River Lands Preserve is located at Salem and Kellogg Avenues. For more information on Magrish or other wild areas in the Cincinnati Parks, call 513/321-6070 or visit www.cinci-parks.org.

Ever Been to a Butterfly Farm?

Though Krohn Conservatory’s annual butterfly show is one of Cincinnati’s most popular springtime events, very few real-ize where the hundreds of exotic butterflies come from—and how they get to Cincinnati. Many of the butterflies come from Butterfly Dan’s, a 4-acre butterfly farm in Kissimmee, Florida.



- Butterfly Dan’s “grows” about 80,000 butterflies a year.
- Some of the most common species are the Zebra, Julia and White Peacock butterflies.
- The rarest species on the farm is the Malachite—a tropical butterfly with brilliant green markings.

Each species of butterfly has a favorite “larvae plant” where they lay eggs, and a favorite “nectar plant” where they get food.

- The warm weather of summer makes for faster egg-laying, hatching, and cocooning.
- The pupae (cocoons) are wrapped in tissue, placed in cups in a well-insulated package, and shipped overnight to Krohn Conservatory during the butterfly show.

The exotic butterflies then remain on display during the butterfly show for all of Greater Cincinnati to enjoy!

Events Sampler

Monet's Garden Through Apr. 28 Apr. 29: End of Show Sale Krohn Conservatory
Spring Bonsai Display Apr. 6 & 7 Krohn Conservatory
Earth Day Apr. 18 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Ft. Square
Cincinnati Flower Show Apr. 24 - 28 Ault Park
Great American Cleanup Apr. 27 Various Locations
Butterfly Show May 10 - June 23 Krohn Conservatory
Green Up Day May 18 Various Parks
Pooch Parade & Picnic May 19 12:00 p.m. French Park
Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra May 27 3:00 p.m. Seasongood Pavilion
Bike Races May 29 - June 26 7:00 p.m. Ault Park
Family Fun Fridays June 14, 21 July 5, 12, 19 7:00 p.m. Rapid Run Park
Juneteenth Celebration June 15 Seasongood Pavilion
Artworks June 17 - July 26 Martin Drive Ball Field/ Eden Park
Ault Park Advisory Council Dances June 20, July 18, Aug. 15 6:00 p.m. Ault Pavilion
Hood Tour Concert June 22 6:30 p.m. Seasongood Pavilion
Everybody's Backyard Picnic June 28, July 26, Aug. 30 5:30 p.m. Rapid Run/Kennedy Heights/ Washington Parks
Independence Day Celebration July 4 8:00 p.m. Ault Park
Eden Song Series July 12, 19, 26 Aug. 2 8:00 p.m. Seasongood Pavilion
Big Band Concert Series July 13, July 31, Aug. 21 7:30 p.m. Mt. Echo/Burnet Woods/ Stanbery Parks
National Night Out Aug. 6 6:00 p.m. Ault Pavilion
Seasongood Sunset Series Aug. 10 7:30 p.m. Seasongood Pavilion
Gardens for the Birds Sept. 6 - Nov. 10 Nov. 11: End of Show Sale Krohn Conservatory

Visit www.cinci-parks.org
for a complete listing of events.

Nature Notes

Park Board Receives Prestigious Merit Award for Restoring the Beauty of Highway Greenspaces

Many travelers are astounded to find Cincinnati’s interstates punctuated with the unexpected presence of flowers, trees, shrubs and grasses. The lush plantings also impressed the National Arbor Day Foundation—so much so that the organization presented the Cincinnati Park Board with its prestigious 2001 Merit Award for the Cincinnati Highway Program. The Arbor Day Foundation presents the award to organizations whose roadside beautification work sets a worthy example for others to follow.

Since 1997, the efforts of the Park Board's Greenspace Management Program have restored 20% of the City of

Cincinnati's 500-acre interstate greenway system. The program resulted in the planting of 9,000 trees on highway property along the Mill Creek, as well as 100,000 daffodils, 20,000 daylilies, and thousands of perennial grasses, flowers and shrubs. Ten acres of reforested sites, 15 acres of wildflowers, and landscaped highway medians and access ramps were also included.

The Park Board formed a strategic partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Inc. (KCB) to coordinate planning and maintenance services. Other partners



The fall mum display beautified Fort Washington Way.

included the Ohio State University Master Gardner Program, Cincinnati White Blossom Festival, The Mill Creek Restoration Project, the National Tree Trust and a multitude of Adopt-A-Highway partners. The Greenspace program and its partners have leveraged \$756,826 in donations, services and grants.

cont. on pg. 4

Be Good to Yourself.

Have a Heart to Heart WALK in the Park!

by Donna Adams, R.N., Health Promotion Programs at Cincinnati Health Department

Home from a day filled with phone calls, presentations, meetings and time at the computer, I quickly exchange my work clothes for my capilene turtleneck, leggings, and my favorite Adidas shoes. After pausing momentarily to feed the cat and grab a quick snack of cheese and crackers, I pull on my windbreaker and head back out the door. Many people spend money with commercial weight-loss programs and painstaking calorie counting or spend time waiting for a treadmill at their local gym. I managed to lose several pounds, lower my cholesterol, and improve my cardiovascular fitness by following a simple path that consisted of eating healthy foods in modest portions and walking for exercise.

I simply walk at a local park. Walking briskly for 45 minutes is my daily ritual. Like many others in Greater Cincinnati, I’m lucky to live close to one of Cincinnati’s great parks—Ault Park. Parks are indeed very accessible. In fact, you live or work within a short drive from a Cincinnati Park or Nature Center.

By now many people have heard about the 1996 surgeon general’s report, which recommends 30 minutes of physical activity a day. Many

researchers support walking as a main form of physical activity for most people. James Hill at the University of Colorado in Denver, studied nearly 800 people who lost at least 30 pounds and kept it off for at least a year. What makes these people different, he says, is a commitment to exercise. Amazingly, 49 out of 50 of the participants walked regularly. Many may find walking 30-45 minutes a day a daunting task, but it helps to know that you can break it up into two 15-minute walks, which works just as effectively. Walking is fun, convenient, and easy on the joints. It’s a no-brainer.

In addition to the cardiovascular benefits of walking, enjoying the outdoors—the crinkle of leaves beneath your feet, the mesmerizing

color and smells of the first wildflowers of the season—reduces stress and improves your mood. Why not take a break in the middle of the day, say at lunchtime? (The aforementioned scene in a local park beats any lunchroom scene I can think of!) On a nice spring or summer day, it’s actually quite entertaining to walk through a local park and watch people tossing a frisbee. Taking a walk in the park breaks up the boredom of the same old walk around the neighborhood or staring at yourself in the mirror while on the treadmill at a gym.

Your Cincinnati Parks help to preserve natural habitat and wildlife for your enjoyment. Think about your local park the next time you head out your front door for a nice brisk walk.

Krohn Conservatory

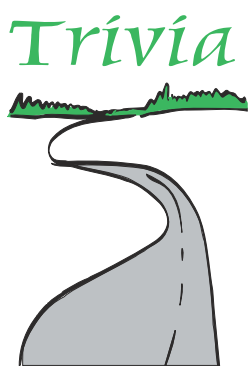
New Fall Show “For the Birds”

Krohn Conservatory will be celebrating a popular pastime, bird watching, with its new fall show, “Gardens for the Birds”.

This unique exhibit will feature a variety of plants, indigenous to the Cincinnati area. Beautiful displays of sunflowers, coneflowers, viburnums, pyracantha,

ornamental grasses and more will fill Krohn Conservatory’s floral showroom. These plants are favored by many species of birds to provide nesting areas, winter protection and food sources. Large sculptures of various birds’ nests, constructed by

cont. on pg. 4



Trivia

What
Cincinnati park
area remains
basically
unchanged
since 1790 and
is a true
remnant of the
first settlement
of Columbia?

(Answer on page 4.)



Volunteer News

Paul Braun: A Hands-On Volunteer

Paul Braun and Cincinnati Parks first discovered their appreciation for each other when Paul served as a member (and accountant) of the Park Board Volunteers. His dedication to our parks continues today as a member of the Cincinnati Parks Volunteers.

During the past five years, Paul has spent time each week volunteering at Warder Nursery. For Paul, a typical day on the job includes weeding, potting, labeling

and moving plant material. (His favorite activity is potting and he especially loves to pot his favorite plant—dahlias!)

Paul’s generosity extends beyond Cincinnati Parks. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Air force in WWII and serves on the board of the "Old" St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Mary Cemetery & St. Johns Cemetery. He also helps disburse baked goods for St. Vincent DePaul, is a member of the Dahlia



Society, and provides the Warder Nursery staff with their snack supply. He is also known to visit the health spa several times a week!

Not surprisingly, Paul was nominated for the Cincinnati Parks, Volunteer of the Year Award in 2001!

Krohn, cont. from pg. 3

local artists and craftspeople, will give visitors a close-up look at the home of our feathered friends’.

“Gardens for the Birds will be a very colorful, artistic show, and educational as well,” explained Andrea Schepmann, the show’s designer. “Visitors will learn how to incorporate these plants into their own garden to create a backyard Bird Sanctuary.” Programs about birds, and bird-related crafts such as feeders and houses, will also be featured.

“Gardens for the Birds” at Krohn Conservatory opens September 6th, and runs through November 10th, 2002. A special preview night party will be held on September 5th, and includes a presentation on birds by Vivian Wagner, Supervisor of Nature Education. The preview night party is open to the public for a small admission fee. Friends of Krohn and Friends of Cincinnati Parks will be invited to attend the preview party free of charge.

Highways, cont. from pg. 3

The Beautification & Litter Prevention component of the program is supported by contributions from local businesses, community groups, individuals, and volunteers. Adopt-a-Highway partners also support landscaping and litter control along designated greenspace highway areas.

The next time you find yourself driving along Cincinnati’s interstates, you too can savor the soothing, blossoming beauty of the roadside scenery!

General Information:

Cincinnati Park Board

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/352-4080 • 513/352-3380 (TTY)
513/352-4096 (fax)
www.cinci-parks.org

Cincinnati Parks Foundation

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/357-2619 • 513/352-4096 (fax)

Cincinnati Parks Volunteers

513/352-4080

Public Nature Programs

513/321-6070

Krohn Conservatory

513/352-4080

Reservations

Picnic areas, shelters, band-stands, and outdoor wedding areas: 513/357-2604

Alms, Ault, and Mt. Echo pavilions; French House; Mt. Airy lodges; Krohn Conservatory: 513/351-4777

Special Use Permits

513/357-2605

Information/Parks Visitor Center

513/352-4080



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